



Bureau of Land Management

Utah
News

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West Desert BLM Implements Fire Restrictions

West Valley City, Utah – Increasing fire danger and recent wildfires have prompted BLM West Desert District officials to implement fire restrictions beginning June 20 on BLM-managed lands in Tooele, Utah, Salt Lake, Rich and Box Elder counties. At lower elevations, annual grass has cured and sagebrush has reached critical burning conditions.

The fire prevention order prohibits using steel, tracer or incendiary ammunition, sky lanterns or similar devices, and operating off-road vehicles without a spark arrestor. A key provision of this order also extends to fireworks and exploding targets, which should be left at home when visiting public lands. The restriction on steel ammunition will be in effect through September 30. All other restrictions will remain in effect until rescinded. For more details, please refer to the order posted on Utahfireinfo.gov or contact the West Desert District. The order will be posted on signs in the five counties affected where BLM lands are accessed.

“These restrictions are limited to activities that easily start wildfires in dry grass and brush but do not include campfires at this time,” said Justin Kincaid, Fire Management Officer. Kincaid urged outdoor enthusiasts to use caution and be prepared with any activity in the West Desert during the dry summer months. Best practices include bringing water, a shovel and a fire extinguisher.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.